

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



27 Ag  
pp. 6

5

# agricultural situation

THE CROP REPORTERS MAGAZINE • DECEMBER 1974  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE



# AGRICULTURE

## 1985

Can U.S. agriculture continue to expand production in years ahead?

The answer is clearly yes, if farm prices and programs encourage maximum production.

Just with existing technologies, USDA economists say that by 1985 we could be producing 50 percent more feed grains, a third more soybeans, 40 percent more beef animals.

And if science and industry manage to come up with new hybrid seed varieties, livestock management practices, and cropping technologies, even greater gains will be possible.

Here are some of the details of what could happen to farm production over the next 10 years.

*Projection background.* USDA's Economic Research Service evaluated the level of output that

could be obtained by U.S. farmers by 1985 with no land held out of production, normal growing conditions, adequate input supplies, and input and product prices that are favorable for increased production.

The economists' projections relate specifically to potential; there is no attempt to predict whether that potential will be realized.

*Output could swell.* By 1985 wider use of already existing technologies could make for a 9-billion-bushel corn crop (compared with the record 5.6-billion forecast bushel outturn last year), plus wheat and soybean crops of 2.3 billion bushels each. The existing records for these crops are: 1.8 billion bushels for wheat set this year and 1.6 billion bushels for soybeans in 1973.

*More land in farming.* Crop acres harvested could be up to 350 million by 1985, compared with an estimated 322 million today, if prices





stay good enough to encourage the cropping of additional land.

The past 2 years have already seen a 33-million-acre increase in our harvested cropland as land formerly diverted under federal programs and some cropland pasture shifted back into crop production.

This year's acreage is 13 million below expectations at the start of the year, largely because of severe weather problems. Next year, though, farmers are expected to plant all out, as they had planned this year, and harvested acreage should be moderately higher again.

After 1975, however, further acreage gains will be slow even with strong incentives.

From that point on, the economists note that any sizable increase in crop acreage will rest on the conversion of permanent pasture and range to crop uses or on the irrigation, drainage, or clearing of the 264

million acres in our land inventory which are not now being cropped but are suitable for cultivation.

*Yield gains of 50 percent.* Wider application of already existing technologies can be counted on to bring about big boosts in output per acre in the next 10 years.

Just to illustrate the kind of growth potential that exists: Some of our best farmers are getting per acre yields that are 50 percent or more higher than the national average.

The top corn farmers had yields 50 percent above the U.S. average in 1972—145 bushels an acre compared with 97 bushels. Top soybean farmers were getting 60 percent better yields—45 bushels compared with 28 bushels.

For winter wheat, leading producers average 50 bushels, compared with a national average of 34 bushels. Top cotton producers



obtain yields 80 to 85 percent above the norm—926 pounds versus 507.

While not all producers can reach the average yield obtained by the front runners, these figures do provide some measure of what's possible from use of today's technologies—hybrid seed, improved machines, effective use of fertilizer and irrigation, narrower rows and higher plant populations, continuous cropping of corn and other high yielding crops, and so on.

*Research may raise yields even more.* Tomorrow's technologies—those being researched and developed right now—hold the promise of even greater yield gains.

For example, with a concerted push, hybrid varieties for wheat, barley, and soybeans might be ready for commercial use within 10 years.

Hybrids for wheat—with yield potentials 15 to 25 percent greater

than present varieties—are already available in limited quantities.

However, within 5 to 7 years they could be making a major impact on wheat production.

In addition, the next 10 years could see a major research and extension effort to expand the practice of double cropping—which involves the planting of a short season summer crop such as soybeans or sorghum after the harvest of a winter or early spring crop such as wheat, oats, or barley.

At present, some 4 to 5 million U.S. acres are being double cropped—but there's room for growth as a result of such recent developments as early maturing varieties of small grains, soybeans, and sorghum; minimum or no-till planting equipment that allows the second crop to be planted directly in the old crop stubble; chemical weed control so that no cultivation is needed; and greater



availability of drying equipment.

*A bigger beef cow herd.* Favorable prices over the next 10 years could encourage the expansion of the beef cow herd from around 43 million head at the start of 1974 to as much as 59 million by 1985. If achieved that would be a gain of about 37 percent.

These estimates of potential output could even turn out to be conservative, however, in light of new production possibilities for livestock that are now in some stage of research or development.

Crossbreeding and artificial insemination could result in an extra 20 percent hike in production. These practices have been slow to catch on with most farmers, apparently because of the lack of technical expertise and the need for further refinement of breeding practices.

Multiple births, or twinning, in beef cattle also has potential for increasing efficiency in beef production. The technology to do this is not yet available but research reports have been encouraging.

Feeding efficiency has room for improvement and researchers are looking into a variety of possibilities such as feeding straw—now largely a waste product—and using manure as a protein source.

These kind of developments could eventually lift the lid on beef production, if not in the next few years, at least in the next few decades.

*Problems to be overcome.* The study assumes adequate supplies of farm inputs, moderate environmental restraints, and adequate marketing and transportation facilities to achieve U.S. production potential. However, there are several problems which could make these output levels more difficult to achieve.

In the near-term, fertilizer and fuel supplies may cause some problems. In the longer term, questions such as

labor availability and environmental restraints could be a serious concern.

*Labor: Industry ways will come to agriculture.* The labor picture will take on new dimensions in future years. Sound labor management practices will be more essential than ever before. More of the labor force is likely to be hired rather than supplied by family members—perhaps as much as a third of the 1980 total versus a fourth in 1972.

Farmers will have to pay more to attract the skilled workers to operate the increasingly complex machinery and equipment.

Minimum wage rates for farmworkers will probably be the same as for nonfarm workers. Unemployment insurance for farmworkers is likely to be written into law, and collective bargaining will become more common.

*Environmental constraints.* Federal regulations to improve water quality will require livestock operations and agricultural processing plants to adopt the best available waste handling technology economically possible by 1983.

These rules will likely mean that some small fruit and vegetable processors, tanners, and others will be forced to close down. This, in turn, may cause some regional shifts in the industry with intermittent shortages until larger firms can expand their capacity.

On the livestock side, USDA economists indicate that about a fourth of present feedlots, two-fifths of the dairy operations, and a fifth of the hog producers are likely to have problems in controlling surface water runoff.

Small producers, who may not be able to afford the requisite control devices, will be hit hard by some of these controls. Thus, the regulations may hasten the trend toward larger operations.



# PIPE DREAM

Ideal for souvenirs, blowing bubbles or just plain smoking, the corn cob pipe has been rescued from near extinction by a new variety of corn developed by USDA plant geneticists.

The new corn variety, Missouri Pipe No. 14, has a big, thick, tough cob perfect for making pipes.

Before this discovery, the corncob pipe business nearly burnt out when farmers began producing mostly hybrid corn shortly after WWII.

While hybrid corn was popular for livestock feed, the early hybrid cobs were soft and small—totally inadequate for the makings of a good pipe.

Today a small handful of farmers grow this new hybrid corn for the three pipe companies in the Nation's capital of corncob pipe manufacturing, Washington, Missouri.

In fact in 1973 one company alone bought cobs from 2,000 acres, paying \$70 an acre for the cobs, a healthy bonus above the price for the corn.

Farmers usually harvest 8,000 to 10,000 usable cobs per acre and each cob is large enough to make 2½ pipes.

For 100 years, corncob pipes have been made almost exclusively in the Washington, Missouri area and sales now total nearly 25 million a year.

A popular purchase in the Ozarks, and towns along the Missouri and



Mississippi Rivers for generations, the pipes now have international appeal. The homey cob is going to Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Denmark, France, Sweden, and Australia.

# TWINE TALE

U.S. farmers got the twine they needed for harvesting the 1974 hay crop—but only by paying a pretty steep price.

Baler twine prices may well end up averaging \$25 or more per bale in 1974, compared with around \$9 a bale in 1973 and \$8 in 1972.

However, the supply situation hopefully will be a little bit better next year.

For one thing, the United States managed, through larger imports and stepped up domestic production, to accumulate close to 320 million pounds of baler twine during the October-September 1973/74 haying season.

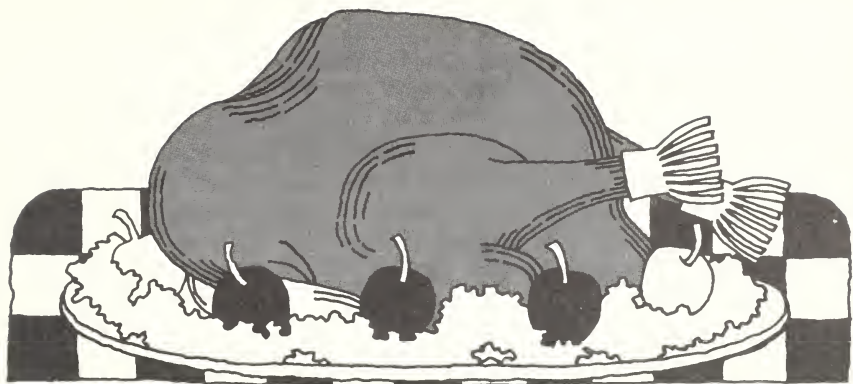
This quantity probably permitted some improvement in the carryover into the 1974/75 hay harvesting season since our annual requirements normally fall within the range of 280-300 million pounds.

Production of plastic twines is also on the upturn, as natural fibers' high price tags have pushed them into the same price class as the plastics.

During 1974 domestic output of plastic twines is expected to rise to about 17-18 million pounds—the equivalent of about 35 million pounds of natural twine since on a weight basis the plastic has about twice the footage of natural fibers.

The increased use of jumbo balers and other new handling equipment by farmers may also ease the twine situation in the 1974/75 season. This new equipment requires considerably less twine per ton of hay harvested or stacked than traditional baling operations.





## DUCK THE ISSUE

As you enjoy a "sitting duck," plump, juicy, and roasted as part of your holiday fare, the farmer's share of the trimmings is just "ducky" too.

The 1973 farm value of duck per pound, ready-to-cook, averaged 52.1 cents, outranking other holiday favorites like turkeys valued at 38.2 cents per pound and broilers at 24.0 cents per pound.

Early 1973 marked the first time detailed price data, compiled by USDA, became available for certain specialized poultry products such as ducks, stewing hens, and geese.

In addition to bringing a good farm price, ducks' wholesale price for the 1973 marketing season was 71.2 cents per pound with the average retail price running 92.0 cents per pound.

The farmer's share of the consumer's duck-buying dollar averaged nearly 57 percent.

In 1973, five States accounted for 64 percent of the 11 million ducks slaughtered, weighing a total of 69 million pounds.

Those States were New York, Wisconsin, Indiana, Virginia, and Missouri. And New York's Long Island was the top producer of this highly specialized poultry product.

The latest agricultural census revealed South Dakota is the leading producer of another holiday favorite, geese. That State claimed

two-thirds of the 4.3 million pounds liveweight slaughtered in 1973.

Farm prices for geese averaged over 73 cents per pound on a ready-to-cook basis. Wholesale prices ran about 96 cents, and retail prices, \$1.07.

Meanwhile farmers pocketed about 69 percent of every consumer dollar spent on geese.

Last year, the farm price of stewing hens; mature birds culled from the Nation's egg laying flock; averaged about 29½ cents per pound on Southeastern farms.

The wholesale price averaged over 46 cents per pound, almost 66 cents at retail. And the farmer's share of the consumer's dollar spent on stewing chicken averaged 45 percent.

In 1973 there were some 520 million pounds of mature chicken used in chicken soup, pot pies, and TV dinners. Some of the birds weighting over 4 pounds were sold in retail stores as stewing hens.

The costs of getting any of these fare fowl from the farmer to your holiday table are highest for duck, averaging 39.9 cents per pound.

Stewing hens rank second with the farm to consumer spread averaging 36.2 cents per pound and geese are the least costly at 33.5 cents.

The average retail spread per pound for each of these items is: stewing hens, 19.3 cents; duck, 18.4 cents and geese, 11.2 cents.

# FAT FIGURES

Jack Sprat may eat no fat, but his fellow Americans are more than making up for it.

Per person, we're now eating 53½ pounds of fats and oils, up 9½ pounds from two decades ago.

The gain stems in large part from changes in when, where, and how often we sit down to eat.

The fast food franchises—with their hamburgers and french fries and fried chicken and fish—have almost become an American institution in recent years. And more working wives and young people have meant a big jump in the use of convenience and snack foods.

Each of these dining developments has contributed to a sharp gain in the use of edible oils in commercial frying, roasting, and production of prepared foods like mayonnaise, salad dressings, potato chips, french fries, margarine, milk fillings, and so on.

But besides eating more fats and oils, we're also changing the kinds we consume.

Twenty years ago, the food fat market was split just about equally between animal fats (lard, butter, and edible beef fats) and edible vegetable oils. Last year, though, the edible oils outranked the animal fats four to one.

On a per capita basis, the past two decades have seen our edible vegetable oil consumption climb from 22 to over 42 pounds, while our animal fat consumption fell from 22 to 11 pounds.

Experts attribute the gain in vegetable oil use primarily to four factors: the sharp growth in output of soybean oil at competitive prices; the development of processing techniques for making shortenings entirely out of vegetable oils; the shift of consumers away from butter to lower priced vegetable oil margarines; and the trend of diet-and-cholesterol conscious consumers

toward liquid (unsaturated) oils and away from solid (saturated) fats.

The edible oil industry has met the challenge for unsaturated oils by producing more vegetable oil shortening, salad and cooking oils, "soft" margarine, and by using more edible oil in commercial food preparations.

Soybean oil has increasingly come to dominate today's food fat market. From a one-fifth share of total use in the early 1950's, soybean oil now accounts for nearly three-fifths of all fats and oils going into food products.

## THE SPREAD

Consumers are currently paying record high prices for margarine, the once famed "low-priced spread."



Fortified by improved quality, low-cholesterol ingredients and relative cheapness, per capita margarine consumption during the past 23 years increased 85 percent, from 6 pounds in 1950 to 11 last year.

Meanwhile, consumers "buttered-up" less in those years and consumption of the dairy product spread declined from 11 to 5 pounds.

Over the past two decades, retail margarine prices have averaged nearly two-thirds below the price of butter. In 1950, the average price of butter was 73 cents a pound, compared with 33 cents for margarine.

Although the butter-margarine price ratio in recent years has averaged around 2.7 to 1 in favor of margarine, the gap is now closing. As of September 1974, the retail price of margarine in leading U.S. cities averaged 63.7 cents a pound, versus 93.5 cents a pound for butter.

Soaring vegetable oil costs are one of the main factors contributing to increased margarine prices.

For example, soybean oil, the oil used most in margarine, has quadrupled in price during the past year and a half, rising from 10 cents to over 40 cents a pound.

In 1973, strong domestic and worldwide demand for vegetable oil pushed prices upward.

Domestic consumption of soybean oil is expected to continue its growth, and probably will exceed 7½ billion pounds in the 1974/75 marketing season. Prices likely will remain high because of relatively tight supplies and strong demand.

Economists predict continued high prices for butter and margarine through 1974 in light of increasing demand, oil price gains, and the end of price controls. Because of the supply and demand imbalances of the recent past in many agricultural commodities, the historical relationship between prices of butter, margarine, and food fats and oils may remain somewhat distorted in the immediate future.

## TASTY TALLOW

A new form of tallow that melts in your mouth may soon be finding its way into the Nation's chocolate bars.

Scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service have developed a process that breaks tallow (beef fat) down into separate fractions.

One of these has a particularly promising future in candymaking as a substitute or extender for high-priced cocoa butter.

Like cocoa butter, the tallow fraction remains solid at room temperature but melts at body temperature. Candy coatings made with such a fat melt in the mouth without leaving a waxy sensation.

Besides the fraction suitable for candy, the researchers are exploring uses for other fractions they have developed. One, a liquid, has promise as a cooking or salad oil. Another, a blend of solid and liquid fractions, might find acceptance in shortenings or in margarine-like products.

This latter process—the blending of fractions—might make it possible to construct fats that have the specific properties required for specialty food uses. Such flexibility, common with synthetic products, has so far been unattainable with most natural products like beef fat.

Commercial operation of the tallow separation process could have an enormous impact on the livestock industry—opening up big new markets for edible tallow which commands a premium price.

Practically all of the 5 to 6 billion pounds of beef fat produced annually in the United States is potentially edible. However, today's edible markets are small, mainly for shortenings and spreads. Thus, about nine-tenths of the tallow produced is diverted to inedible markets, where prices received by farmers are relatively low.



# SURVEYSCOPE

---

***To give our readers a clearer picture of the vast scope of SRS activities, Agricultural Situation presents a series of articles on special surveys undertaken in various States. While these are not national surveys, they are important to the agriculture in individual States.***

---

"When you talk about U.S. mohair production, you're really talking for all intents and purposes about Texas mohair production," comments Charles Caudill, Statistician in Charge of the Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service in Austin.

"Farmers and ranchers in the Lone Star State account for about 97 percent of U.S. mohair output—which in turn represents a little more than a third of the world's total production."

That fact gives special importance to the annual survey of Texas' mohair producers taken by the Texas Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

The Texas survey, which involves a scientifically selected sample of the State's 3,500 mohair producers, gives a detailed breakdown of the goat inventory as of January 1, the size of the preceding year's mohair clip, and the average level of farmers' prices for the mohair.

"These numbers provide a critical planning base not only for the textile industry in the United States but also for textile interests elsewhere in the world," notes Caudill.

Mohair fortunes in the United States have been slumping since the mid-1960's. Production of mohair



Texas' survey of mohair production gains worldwide attention since the State



topped out at 32.4 million pounds (grease weight) in 1965 and has declined each year since then.

There was some hope that the sharply higher prices of mohair experienced in 1972 and 1973 would reverse the decline in the number of Angora goats. But several unusually severe snowfalls and freezes in Texas caused high death losses in the flocks and production in 1973 dropped to about 10 million pounds.

The official verdict of what's happened to production in 1974 awaits the publication of Texas' annual report in January 1975.

The year began with an inventory of 1.4 million Angora goats. However, unofficial reports from Texas producers indicate 1974's kid crop suffered heavy death losses from continued dry weather and curtailed feeding. Consequently, it's doubtful that even 1974 goat numbers and mohair production (forecast somewhere between 9.0 and 9.2 million pounds) can be maintained in 1975.

Industry sources agree that the main cause of the long-term decline in the size of Texas' Angora goat flock was the low price level of mohair during the 1960's and early 1970's. However, producers were also pressured by the rising cost of labor, the resurgence of animal predator problems, and alternative uses of land for more attractive enterprises such as cattle raising.

However, market prices for mohair are now four to five times higher than the 30 cents a pound received by producers in 1971—and if prices continue at about this level, industry people hope they will eventually stimulate a recovery of Texas production.

Demand for mohair is highly dependent on fashion swings in quality sweaters, suits, and plush upholstery fabrics and textile firms are reluctant to commit themselves to any long-term purchases of mohair particularly when they cannot be assured of ample supplies.



singlehandedly accounts for a little more than a third of the globe's mohair output.

---

# Briefings

---

RECENT REPORTS BY USDA OF ECONOMIC, MARKETING, AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING FARMERS.

**HOG PROSPECTS . . .** The weather-reduced corn crop this year will result in significant cuts in hog slaughter during first half 1975, according to USDA economists. The forecasters are looking forward to a slaughter total of around 37 million head, the smallest since 1966. Many hog farmers are also grain farmers and some have already made plans to cut their hog operations and instead sell their corn on the cash market.

**SECOND HALF '75 . . .** Even if next year's grain harvest is larger and corn prices trend lower after harvest, fall farrowings in 1975 will likely remain relatively low, say the economists. Traditionally hog farmers have not expanded farrowings during the fall months, nor have they increased their breeding plans until after corn prices have dropped. In the event of a bumper harvest in 1975, hog producers might opt for a bigger spring pig crop in 1976—meaning hog slaughter might then gain during the second half of the year.

**ON THE CATTLE SCENE . . .** Prospects for cattle feeding are improving slowly. Feeders who have been buying older, heavier cattle and feeding them for 60 to 90 days are realizing a more favorable return than those on longer feeding programs. USDA economists note that with conditions of high feed costs, lower feeder cattle prices, and a fluctuating fed cattle market, feeders who start with heavier cattle may be in the best position in the months ahead. In the long-term, feeding of calves will probably continue to decline as high feed costs discourage this type of operation.

**NEXT YEAR'S OUTLOOK . . .** Tight feed grain supplies in the 1974/75 marketing year will restrict cattle feeding to some extent, but changes in feeding practices will help to stretch feed grain supplies. Cattle placed in feedlots weighing 75 to 100 pounds more than last year would mean less weight added in the feedlot. Also, lowering marbling requirements for Federal grades could further reduce feed needs somewhat. Thus, USDA economists think it's conceivable that almost as

many cattle could be fed next year as in 1974, even with 15 to 20% less concentrate feed available. Smaller supplies in the first half could be substantially offset by an increase in the second half.

**CANADIAN CLAMPDOWN . . .** The recent unilateral decision by Canada to place quotas on its cattle and beef imports is expected to severely inhibit U. S. livestock trade with Canada—by far the largest foreign market for U.S. livestock and meat. Reflecting in part problems with Canada's new beef grading system, which places a premium on lean meat over the traditionally preferred well marbled meat, the new quota could mean a total loss of over \$100 million in our livestock and meat trade.

**U.S. MAY REVISE BEEF GRADES . . .** Responding to recommendations from major segments of the U.S. cattle and beef industry and from consumers, USDA has proposed altering U.S. beef grading standards. However, changes would not be as drastic as those adopted by Canada and would stress different features.

**PROPOSED CHANGES . . .** The major changes envisioned in USDA grading standards are: elimination of conformation as a factor behind quality grades . . . grading of carcasses on the basis of both quality and yield . . . establishment of the same marbling requirements for beef from cattle under 30 months of age (currently more marbling is required as animals advance in age) . . . and a boost in the marbling minimum for the Good grade on the youngest carcasses, narrowing the quality range by a third.

**CATTLE GAIN WELL ON WOOD PULP . . .** Animal nutritionists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service report that wastes from paper mills may provide food energy for cattle in the future. Researchers have found that cattle grow well and gain weight rapidly on diets consisting of up to 75% pulp fines—the tiny wood fibers which sift through the screens used in making paper. An estimated 1.7 million tons of wood pulp and papermaking fiber residues are produced annually in the United States . . . and currently these waste products are burned or used as landfill. The USDA researchers fed beef heifers a diet consisting of 50% pulp fines for 99 days and found that these heifers gained weight more rapidly than heifers fed a control diet of hay. When nine pregnant heifers were fed a diet of 75% pulp fines, weight gain, calf birth weight, and calving problems were no different than with heifers fed the hay.

**FARMLAND TRADERS . . .** Public corporations are active in the farmland market, but according to USDA economists they appear to be selling land as fast as they're buying it. The latest report on farmland transfers shows the value of real estate bought by publicly held corporations rose from 1% of total farmland value in 1973 to 3% in the survey year ended March 1, 1975. This gain, however, was cancelled out by corporation sales, which climbed by a like amount.

**INDIVIDUALS CONTINUE TO DOMINATE** the farm real estate market, although their share of total transfer activity trended down during 1972-74. Purchases by individuals accounted for 64% of all acreage bought in 1974 versus 72% in 1972. Sales in the same period dipped from 75% to 69%.

**NEXT MOST ACTIVE** group in the real estate market are privately held corporations, mainly incorporated family farms. These corporations bought 18% of all farmland transferred in late 1973 and early 1974, up by half from the previous year. Their real estate sales rose only 13%, so on balance the private corporations showed a net increase in acreage held.

**HIRED FARMWORKERS . . .** About 2.7 million persons age 14 and over made up the 1973 hired farm working force. The group's profile reveals most were young white males who lived in nonfarm areas. About half—primarily students and housewives—were not in the labor force most of the year and only 27% were engaged chiefly in farm work. The number of migratory workers has been rising slightly since 1971, but the nonmigratory group showed a 6% drop during 1973 after increasing during the 2 preceding years. Last year's decrease in the number of hired farmworkers was greatest in the South and among seasonal workers, reflecting the reduction in cotton acreage and in the production of poultry.

**UTOPIA FOR AVOCADO LOVERS . . .** USDA scientists have turned the dial on the time machine . . . making avocados available year-round with controlled atmosphere storage techniques. In the past, problems with chilling injury and decay made cold storage of avocados impossible for more than 3 weeks. As a result, producers marketed avocados promptly after harvest, causing an all or nothing supply situation. USDA has found that storing avocados in an atmosphere of 2% oxygen and 10% carbon dioxide doubled their storage life.



# Statistical Barometer

Item	1972	1973	1974—latest available data	
<b>Farm Income:</b>				
Volume of farm marketings (1967=100)	113	116	118	2
Cash receipts from farm marketings (\$bil.)	61.0	88.6	91.3	2
Realized gross farm income (\$bil.)	69.9	97.0	98.4	2
Production expenses (\$bil.)	52.4	64.7	74.5	2
Realized net farm income (bil.)	17.5	32.2	23.9	2
<b>Income and Spending:</b>				
Gross national product (\$bil.)	1,158.0	1,294.9	1,411.6	3
Disposable personal income (\$bil.)	802.5	903.7	990.8	3
Personal consumption expenditures (\$bil.)	729.0	805.2	899.9	3
Food spending (excluding alcoholic beverages (\$bil.)	123.4	143.6	167.3	3
Share of income spent for food (percent)	15.4	15.9	16.6	2
<b>Prices:</b>				
Prices received by farmers (1967=100) <sup>4</sup>	126	172	178	3
Livestock prices (1967=100)	134	179	156	3
Crops (1967=100)	115	164	210	3
Prices paid by farmers (1967=100) <sup>45</sup>	127	145	172	3
Wholesale price index, all commodities (1967=100)	119.1	134.7	165.4	3
Consumer price index, all items (1967=100)	125.3	133.1	150.1	3
All food (1967=100)	123.5	141.4	162.8	3
Food at home (1967=100)	121.6	141.4	163.0	3
<b>Farm Food Market Basket:<sup>1</sup></b>				
Retail cost (1967=100)	121	142	162	August
Farm value (1967=100)	124	164	174	August
Farmer's share of retail cost (percent)	40	45	42	August
<b>Agricultural Trade:</b>				
Agricultural exports (\$bil.)	9.4	17.7	14.4	Jan.-Aug.
Agricultural imports (\$bil.)	6.5	8.4	7.0	Jan.-Aug.
<b>Farm Production and Efficiency:</b>				
Farm output, total (1967=100)	110	112	110	October
Livestock (1967=100)	108	105	109	October
Crops (1967=100)	113	120	112	October
Cropland used for crops (1967=100)	98	104	106	October
Crop production per acre (1967=100)	115	115	106	October

<sup>1</sup>Average quantities per family and single person households bought by wage and clerical workers, 1960-61, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics figures.

<sup>2</sup>Annual rate, seasonally, adjusted, second quarter.

<sup>3</sup>Annual rate, seasonally adjusted, third quarter.

<sup>4</sup>Not seasonally adjusted.

<sup>5</sup>Including interest, taxes, and wage rates.

## AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

DECEMBER 1974 • VOL. 58 NO. 11  
GERALDINE SCHUMACHER, EDITOR

The Agricultural Situation, published 11 times a year by USDA's Statistical Reporting Service, is distributed free to crop and livestock reporters in connection with their work. Contents of the magazine may be reprinted without permission. The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by law of this Department. Use of funds for printing this publication were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, January 15, 1974. Subscription price \$2.40 a year (\$3.00 foreign). Single copies 25 cents. Order from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE  
AGR 101



To stop mailing ☐ or to change your  
address ☐ send mailing label on this  
magazine and new address to the  
SRS office in charge of your State.

952 46 000 0002573 -RLSE  
USDA LIBRARY -02

-0

WASHINGTON DC 20250